

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

News You
Can Use

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A NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO, THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS—COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM AND THE IDAHO COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

*Want to get the word out about the benefit of trees?
See one method Moscow, Idaho is using.*

Coordinator's Column

Beyond City Boundaries – Community Forestry on a Landscape Scale

In my last column I wrote about how trees in our communities can and should be used to positively address our most significant issues – air and water quality, energy conservation and public health among them. But these issues aren't confined to a city's boundaries, nor are we insulated from what happens beyond the city's edge. Air, water, wildlife, people, wildfire, energy and more all flow through the continuum connecting our most remote areas to our busiest downtowns. What affects any of these in one place inevitably affects them in the others. As more and more people move into the rural areas beyond our cities and suburbs – also known as the wildland-urban interface – the line between what is urban and what is wild becomes even fuzzier.

The Idaho Department of Lands and the State & Private Forestry (S&PF) branch of the USDA Forest Service have long been partners in the delivery of forestry programs focused on non-Federal lands. In fact, most of the funding for these efforts in Idaho comes through the Forest Service. These programs include private forest landowner assistance, forest health, cooperative wildfire management and urban & community forestry. In the past, these have been treated as individual programs with little interaction or integration between them. Yet each of these affects the others and all have an impact on the issues most important to our state across the urban/wildland continuum.

For this reason, S&PF has been redesigning the way it delivers programs, from a focus on the specialty programs mentioned above to a focus on how to best address key issues through an integrated suite of programs. These issues fall into three primary themes: (1) conserving work-

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Logan Tibbitts is shown on his way to an Eagle Scout award while helping Ammon along its way to having a well-treed park in a new subdivision.

Photo by Gerry Bates

Ammon Volunteers Get Things Done

Ammon is located in southeast Idaho near Idaho Falls. Like most Idaho cities, it's experiencing rapid growth with new subdivisions exploding into existence. Last year, Ammon received a Community Transportation Enhancement (CTE) grant for a 13-acre park being developed alongside Ammon Road where it will also serve as a storm water retention site for a new subdivision.

Parks and Recreation Director Ken Knoch approached the homeowners of Woodland Hills and asked for their help in the establishment of the park. A Boy Scout, Logan Tibbitts, asked if he could assist to earn his Eagle Scout award. Logan developed flyers about the park and distributed them to every home. He made signs and placed them around town informing the citizens about the project and asking for help. He also organized his fellow scouts and helped Ken lay out the park's trees which were spread over a huge area. And then, he and the other scouts assisted in the planting effort.

Logan was not alone. Neighbors from the subdivision realized what an asset the park would be to them. The local tree committee prepared a planting demonstration and on a Saturday morning entire families showed up to get things done. Each tree committee member was assigned a 300 by 500 foot section of the park and oversaw the planting to make sure things were done properly. Dads shoveled, children watered, moms raked and built water reservoirs, and everyone had a great time. In 2 ½ hours, all 156 trees were planted – and planted correctly.

Volunteers make communities. Ammon, like many other Idaho communities, is fortunate to have people who take pride in where they live and work to make it a better place for their families.

Two Troubling Pest Problems in Idaho

Jeffrey Fidge, forest entomologist for the Idaho Department of Lands, brings to your attention two common pest problems and what you can do about them.

What's wrong with my blue spruce?

Especially in the Panhandle last summer, some landowners noted defoliation on the tops of their blue spruce. The culprit: *Douglas-fir tussock moth*. This insect is normally a forest pest that becomes a problem every 8 to 10 years, often requiring aerial spraying to suppress the worm stage of the population and save trees. In the years preceding defoliation of forests by tussock moth, fir and spruce (particularly blue spruce), can be defoliated in urban landscapes. This insect will consume the needles from the top half of the tree's crown. Yard trees can be severely defoliated several years in a row, but this damage is rarely fatal. Those wishing to control this pest can apply an insecticide labeled for tussock moth to the top of infested trees from the 2nd week in June to the 1st week in July. At this time of year the worms are about ½-in. long and have not yet caused much damage. At this stage, they are relatively easy to kill. Please consult a tree care professional for control options and always follow the directions on the pesticide label. Here are some good links:



The tussock moth in this stage is fairly easy to control.



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Grow it and they will come!

If you are thinking about planting a birch tree, you may want to rethink your options. A native boring insect, bronze birch borer, will almost always find and attack ornamental birch. The adults resemble flattened bullets about ½-in. long. It is their offspring (grubs) that feed on the living wood and end up girdling portions of the tree crown, causing branch dieback.



Photos by Idaho Dept. of Lands

Planting ornamental birch trees most places in Idaho is inviting trouble. Dieback of the crown is the tell-tale sign that borers are at work.

Idaho's climate is generally too dry for birch and often trees are not watered frequently enough to stay vigorous over our hot, dry summers. The droughty conditions increase the success of borer attack, and several years of attack can kill the tree. However, there is hope for birches with intact crowns: application of systemic (internal, not sprayed on) insecticides coupled with ample watering. Such chemicals, which are fairly new to the market, reside inside the tree's living wood and, as such, have been shown effective against insects like birch borer. As always, consult a tree care professional for pest identification and control options. It is critical to read and follow the instructions for applying the insecticide, including recommendations for watering. For more information, try these links:

www.forestryimages.org

<http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/factsheets/bronze-birch>

http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/br_bir_bor/bbbfidl.htm

www.forestryimages.org

<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/tussock/fidl-tuss.htm>

http://www.pfc.forestry.ca/entomology/defoliators/tussock_moths/douglas_fir_e.html

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ing forest landscapes; (2) protecting forests from harm; and (3) enhancing benefits associated with trees and forests.

The Redesign approach supports efforts that: **focus** on addressing issues that fall within the three themes and which sustain a diverse range of public benefits from forests and trees; are **pri-**

oritized by using the best available technology and information to assess forest conditions and trends at the global, national, and state level and to identify the best opportunities for investment toward meaningful change; and are designed to achieve significant **outcomes** by emphasizing collaboration, innovative partnerships, and

work at appropriate scales and by improving our ability to assess and demonstrate our impact on the ground.

That's a mouthful to be sure, but the emphasis is utilization of limited public funds in ways that will yield the greatest results in addressing our most critical issues. We will be working

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Moscow Tree Commission Sponsors Fair Booth

Once again the Moscow Tree Commission sponsored a booth at the annual Latah County Fair. The booth gives members a chance to talk with hundreds of property owners about how to select the best trees to plant, proper pruning and tree care, and the city's tree ordinances. A large quantity of helpful literature is also given away over the course of the 4-day event. As an added 'draw,' visitors can sign up for a raffle to win one of several trees on display. The trees were donated by the Clearwater RC&D except for the large hedge maple shown in the photo that was provided by a local nursery.

This year, commission members put together a continuous PowerPoint show on the practical benefits of trees in the community. Local photos were used, but content was gleaned from an online presentation made available by the USDA Forest Service Center for Urban Forest Research in Davis, California. For information that you can modify to use in your own exhibit or presentation, visit: <http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/TreesInOurCity/>.



Photo by James R. Fazio

Scott Billing (left) and Mike Bowman take their turn staffing Moscow's tree booth at the county fair. The visitor at the right is signing up for a chance to win one of several trees on display. A 'teaser' sign under the Tree City USA flag reads: "What is a Tree City USA?" It provides commission members with one more thing to discuss with fair goers.

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with cities, counties, tribes, other state agencies and organizations, federal agencies and other states in a more integrated fashion as we make the shift to this method of program delivery. Keep an eye on this column for future updates as things continue to unfold.

-- David Stephenson, Community Forestry Coordinator

Calendar – Fall/Winter 2007-08

Oct 20

Arborist Community Awareness Day, Idaho Botanical Garden, Boise, ID (10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) Sponsored by the Southwest Chapter of Idaho Arborists and featuring demonstrations of climbing, large tree pruning, tree removal, planting, tree injections, food, music and fun. Contact Linda Jarsky at 336-8696 or by email at lindajar@msn.com.

Nov 6

Hazard Trees Workshop, Salt Lake City, UT. Contact the National Arbor Day Foundation at (402) 474-5655 or www.arborday.org.

Nov 7

Trees, People, and the Law Seminar, Salt Lake City, UT. Contact the National Arbor Day Foundation (See above.)

Nov 8

Tree Care Industry Expo, Hartford, CT. Visit TCIA.org and click on *Meetings* for details

Nov 14-16

Partners in Community Forestry National Conference, Baltimore, MD. Contact the National Arbor Day Foundation (See above.)

Nov 28 - Dec 1

American Society of Consulting Arborists Annual Conference, Nashville, TN. Contact: 301-947-0483 or www.asca-consultants.org/conferences.html.

Dec 1

Deadline for submitting Tree City USA / Growth Award Applications. Contact your CFA for more information (see masthead on page 2 for contact information).

Jan 16-18, 2008

Idaho Horticulture Expo, Boise Centre on the Grove, Boise. Contact Ann Bates, 800/INA-GROW or www.inlagrow.org/expo2007.htm.

Feb 7-8, 2008

Inland Northwest Turf, Tree & Landscape Conference, Coeur d'Alene Resort, CDA. Contact WSU Conference Office at 800/942-4978 or <http://capps.wsu.edu/ttlc>.

Feb 24-29, 2008

Municipal Forester Institute, New Braunfels, TX. Contact the Society of Municipal Arborists at (706) 769-7412 or www.urban-forestry.com

Upcoming Certified Arborist, Municipal Arborist, Utility Arborist, and Certified Tree Worker written Exams

Nov 7—Lehi, UT – afternoon exam

Dec 7—Salt Lake City, UT – afternoon exam

For information or to register, contact: Utah Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at (801) 446-8229 or email: Lisa@UtahUrbanForest.org.

Note that applications and exam fees must be submitted at least 12 days in advance of the exam.



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Tree tip

Raking Leaves is a Good Idea

It is time-consuming and not a whole lot of fun, but raking fallen leaves is a good way to prevent the over-wintering and spread of some tree diseases. For example, leaf spot in aspens and cottonwoods and leaf blotch in buckeyes and horsechestnuts are among the diseases that can be controlled through sanitization (leaf raking!). Removing leaves can also mean healthier lawn grasses.

For ideas about what some communities are doing with leaves, limbs and other tree debris, contact the Idaho Department of Lands Community Forestry Office listed in the masthead and ask for a free copy of *Tree City USA Bulletin No.16 "How to Recycle Shade Tree Materials."*

